

TO: Interested Parties
FROM: Garin-Hart-Yang Research & Global Strategy Group
DATE: June 27, 2017
RE: National Poll Finds Strong Opposition to the Trump Administration's Environmental Policies

The findings in this memorandum are based on interviews with a nationally representative cross section of 1,000 presidential year voters conducted by telephone from June 14-18, 2017 on behalf of the League of Conservation Voters. The self-reported 2016 presidential vote of this sample is 49% for Hillary Clinton and 47% for Donald Trump. The margin of error is +/- 3.2 percentage points.

President Trump on the Environment

By a wide margin of 50% to 27%, voters across the country say that they have had an unfavorable rather than a favorable reaction to what they have heard recently about Donald Trump's environmental policies. Independent voters hold this view by an even wider 55% to 13% margin, and one-quarter of "soft" Republicans say they are unfavorable toward President Trump on this topic. White non-college educated women – who overwhelmingly backed Trump in November's election – are also unfavorable toward the president's environmental policies thus far, by 40% to 28%.

Environmental Issues & Budget Cuts

The poll also took a look at some of the president's specific moves and policies around the environment in recent weeks. First and foremost among these was the decision to withdraw the United States from the Paris climate agreement. Overall, nearly three-fourths of voters (73%) report having heard at least some about this issue, with 46% saying they have heard "a lot" about it. Views toward the move are largely negative: a 56% majority of voters disapprove of Trump's decision to exit the Paris climate accord, compared to only 34% who approve. Independents disapprove by a 35-point margin (59% to 24%); what's more, one in five (20%) of Trump's own voters say they disapprove of his pulling the U.S. out of the climate agreement. And these feelings aren't limited to those voters who are paying the most attention: majorities of those who have heard a lot (62%) as well as those who have heard less (51%) about the Paris decision express their disapproval.

Additionally – while somewhat less high-profile than the Paris decision – voters largely disapprove of Trump's proposed budget cuts as they relate to energy and environmental issues. Half of respondents in the poll were asked about cuts to the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, while the other half were asked about cuts to clean energy programs.

Just over half (52%) of voters report having heard at least some about Trump's proposal to cut funding for the EPA by 31% (one in four have heard a lot about this). Again, views are broadly negative, with 58% of voters saying they disapprove of this proposal, and only 30% saying they approve. This opinion cuts across demographic groups, even including non-college educated white men – President Trump's core base of support – who disapprove narrowly of the proposed EPA cut (47% to 42%).

Finally, just under half (49%) of voters say they have heard about Trump's proposal to cut funding by 70% for programs that develop new clean energy technologies, with just over one in five (22%) having heard a lot about this. Here, voters feel even more unfavorable: more than six in ten (62%)

disapprove of this idea, while only 27% approve. Seventy-one percent of independents disapprove of this large clean energy cut, as do nearly a third (30%) of Trump voters.

Implications for Congress

After hearing about the Paris decision and President Trump’s proposed budget cuts, a majority of voters – including independent voters – tell us that they would be less favorable toward their own senator or congressperson if he or she were to support these policies. In fact, two in five voters say they would be *much* less favorable toward someone who sided with Trump on these issues:

| Voter’s Feelings Toward Senator/Congressperson Who Supported Trump’s Environmental Policies | | | | |
|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------|
| | <i>Withdrawal from Paris Agreement + 31% Cut to EPA (Half of sample)</i> | | <i>Withdrawal from Paris Agreement + 70% Cut to Clean Energy (Half of sample)</i> | |
| | <u>All voters</u> | <u>Independents</u> | <u>All voters</u> | <u>Independents</u> |
| | % | % | % | % |
| Much more favorable | 19 | 17 | 20 | 7 |
| Somewhat more favorable | 19 | 12 | 14 | 10 |
| Somewhat less favorable | 12 | 12 | 13 | 9 |
| Much less favorable | 40 | 44 | 44 | 53 |
| Total more favorable | 38 | 29 | 34 | 17 |
| Total less favorable | 52 | 56 | 57 | 62 |